

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNHRC, SHUM

SUBJECT: THE NGO SUGGESTIONS ON THE DRAFT CONVENTION
AGAINST RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE NEGOTIATIONS AT HRC

REF: USUN 111

1. WHILE SERIOUS NEGOTIATING PROBLEMS EXIST FOR ANY
DRAFT, DEPT STRONGLY PREFERS TO CONTINUE DRAFTING AN
INTERNATIONAL DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS
OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE ON THE BASIS OF THE NETHERLANDS-
SWEDISH DRAFT PROPOSED IN 1974 (DOC. E/CN.4/L.1289 AND
ADD.1), RATHER THAN TO BEGIN THESE PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS
ON A NEW BASIS AGAIN.

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2. DUTCH DRAFT AS MODIFIED ENCAPSULATES THE PRODUCT OF
ABOUT 15 YEARS OF DIFFICULT UN WORK, THE FRUITS OF WHICH
SHOULD BE RETAINED.

3. THE LEWIN DRAFT IS NOT SHORTER THAN THE DUTCH DRAFT.
INSOFAR AS UNDERLYING IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES ARE THE

REAL PROBLEM, THE LEWIN DRAFT OF AN OPERATIVE SECTION
WOULD EXACERBATE THESE.

4. HOWEVER, MISSION COULD THANK THE RELIGIOUS NGO'S FOR

THEIR EFFORTS AND MEETINGS (REFTEL) AND FOR THEIR
SUGGESTIONS FOR HELPING TO EXPEDITE DRAFTING. WE HOPE
THAT THEY WILL PURSUE EFFORTS TO URGE OTHER HRC MEMBERS
TO GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO THE DRAFT DECLARATION AT
THE UPCOMING HRC MEETING. FOR EXAMPLE, IT WOULD HELP IF
THE LA HRC MEMBERS WOULD PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE, AS WELL
AS MEMBERS FROM OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS. AS IT IS ONLY THE
WEO'S AND EE'S SHOW ANY REAL INTEREST, WHICH TENDS TO
HEIGHTEN POTENTIALS FOR CONFRONTATIONS. DEPT IS NOT
HOPEFUL THAT HRC THREE-PERSON WORKING GROUP WOULD
EXPEDITE DRAFTING. THE PRODUCT OF SUCH A SMALL GROUP
WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED IN DETAIL BY THE WHOLE WORKING
GROUP, WITH A LIKELY LOSS, RATHER THAN SPEED-UP, IN TOTAL
TIME CONSUMED. U.S. COULD SUPPORT SUGGESTION FOR INTER-
SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP, IF NECESSARY, TO COMPLETE
DRAFTING. CHRISTOPHER

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